

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Sterling Free Public (Carnegie) Library

and or common Same

2. Location

street & number 132 N. Broadway

not for publication

city, town Sterling

vicinity of

state Kansas

code 20

county Rice

code 159

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name City of Sterling

street & number City Hall

city, town Sterling

vicinity of

state Kansas 67579

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Rice County Clerk

street & number Rice County Courthouse

city, town Lyons

state Kansas 67554

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date N/A

☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A

state N/A

7. Description

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Sterling Free Public (Carnegie) Library (c. 1917) is located at 132 N. Broadway in Sterling, Rice County, Kansas (pop. 2,312). The one-story, brick, Jacobethan building stands on a corner lot one block north of Sterling's central business district. Its facade orientation is west. The original building measures approximately fifty-six feet from north to south and thirty-three feet from east to west. The 1982 rear addition measures fifty feet from east to west and thirty-four feet from north to south. The building retains its original function as a library.

The one-story, red brick building sits on a raised foundation with a limestone base. It is a rectangular structure with a cross gabled roof. Three bays comprise the facade, the original building is one bay deep, two bays comprise the building's rear, the addition is one bay deep. A gabled entry pavilion projects from the facade's center bay. A gabled roof addition projects from the building's rear, creating an ell-shaped structure. A small, pent roofed unit projects from the ell's center junction. A brick chimney rises from the addition's south roof slope.

A limestone belt course delineates the first floor level of the original building, this feature continues as a stylistic link on the addition. The original building retains its roof pantiles, compatible pantiles were used for the addition. The building's two original stepped gable ends and one new stepped gable end are capped with limestone or cast stone and incorporate limestone or cast stone corner blocks. This treatment is also evident on the building's projecting gable entry pavilion.

The projecting gable entry pavilion contains a large doorway with a quoined limestone surround. The original door treatment was replaced with a tinted glass and metal frame arrangement in 1979. A limestone frieze bearing the inscription "Public Library" surmounts the doorway. A diamond shaped limestone date tablet bearing the carving "1917" stands in the pavilion's gable. The tablet is delineated with a brick and limestone surround. Limestone capping and corner blocks conclude the pavilion's gable treatment. Stone steps lead up to the doorway, flanked by limestone capped brick abutments.

Identical window bays flank the pavilion. Three, 1/1 double hung windows surmounted by a narrow limestone entablature and underscored by a continuous sill form the first level fenestration. The windows appear to be new replacements.

The addition exhibits compatible fenestration. Three pairs of 1/1 double hung windows with limestone sills and lintels fenestrate the first level of the addition's northern elevation. Two pairs of the same window type fenestrate the addition's southern elevation. A door with steps pierces the eastern end of the southern elevation.

The interior of the original building maintains its overall floor plan and vestibule entrance with basement stair. The first floor ceiling in the original building was covered with dropped acoustic tiles in 1979. The original building's interior woodwork, such as the door and window surrounds, the staircase, and the vestibule door, is retained.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates c. 1917 **Builder/Architect** R.W. Stookey of George P. Washburn and Son - Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Mr. Stausbury - Builder

(Mann and Co. - 1982 Addition)

The Sterling Free Public (Carnegie) Library (c. 1917) is being nominated to the National Register as part of the Carnegie Libraries of Kansas thematic resources nomination (c. 1902-1921) at the local level of significance under criteria A and C for its historical association with the Carnegie Corporation Library Building Program and for its architectural significance as a new building type. A library association was organized in Sterling in 1902. The community received their \$10,000.00 Carnegie Library grant in 1916, library construction was completed in 1917. The Sterling Free Public (Carnegie) Library is an example of the Jacobethan style.

Sixty-three Carnegie funded libraries were built in Kansas during the first three decades of the Twentieth Century; four of these libraries were built on college campuses. In most cases, the Carnegie funded library represented the community's first library building although many Kansas communities had book clubs and library organizations well before the Carnegie Corporation Library Building Program was founded. In the case of the four college libraries, the building represented the first structure which was solely devoted to housing the institution's books and providing study space. Carnegie did not solicit interest in the program, with the exception of the Anderson (Carnegie) Memorial Library which was built by Carnegie as a memorial to his friend John Anderson and was the first college library nationally to receive Carnegie funding. Communities initiated contact with the corporation by letter, indicating their desire for a Carnegie funded library. If the Corporation responded favorably to the request, a firm local commitment to the program's requirements, which generally resulted in a public election in support of the library, followed. Obviously these actions represented a perceived need within the community for a library building and the Carnegie Corporation Library Building Program represented an excellent way to secure the funds to build one. Many of the Carnegie Libraries built in Kansas reflect the high space utilization design guidelines promoted by the Carnegie Corporation after 1910, underscoring the point that before the Carnegie Corporation Library Building Program, few architects and/or builders had experience designing this building type.

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Twenty-eight Carnegie Libraries are included in this nomination (see inventory). Twelve Carnegie Libraries have been listed individually on the National Register: Argentine, Case Library (Baker University, Baldwin City), Caldwell, Dodge City, Emporia, Goodland, Lawrence, Leavenworth, Newton, Ottawa, Parsons, and Pittsburg. The Carnegie Library at Arkansas City is included in a downtown historic district. Thirteen Carnegie Libraries have been demolished: Great Bend, Halstead, Hays, Iola, Kansas City, McPherson, Morrison Library (Fairmont College, Wichita), Olathe, Osawatomie, Plainville, Russell, Salina, and Washington. Five Carnegie Libraries have been altered enough to make them ineligible for the National Register: Abilene, Garden City, Hiawatha, Lyons, and Stockton. (The nominations for the Concordia, Eureka, Independence, and Winfield libraries were deferred.) Twenty-two of the nominated libraries retain their original function. All of the buildings are in use or have an active use planned for them. The

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nominated libraries maintain a high to moderate degree of architectural and structural integrity.

Industrialist Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919) and the Carnegie Corporation significantly influenced the development and expansion of public library systems worldwide. Between 1886 and 1921 Carnegie funds assisted in the construction of 1,681 city and 108 college libraries in the United States. As a region, the Mid-West, Kansas included, did not have a well established public library system until the Carnegie Program and ranks highest in the number of communities which obtained Carnegie Libraries nationwide. Out of the forty-six states to participate in the library building program, Kansas ranks approximately eleventh in the number of Carnegie Libraries built. For many Kansas communities, the Carnegie Library represented its first library building, providing an environment that all members of the community could share for the purposes of reading, learning, and education.

Eligibility for Carnegie Library funds rested on several factors. Firstly, the population of the community had to exceed 1,000; in Kansas this indicated at least a second class city status. This population requirement generally resulted in county seat communities applying for and receiving Carnegie Libraries. Some communities with populations less than 1,000 banded together with neighboring communities to achieve the 1,000 mark and applied for township libraries, as in the case of the Peabody and Canton Township libraries. In the case of college libraries this constraint may not have applied, although the four Kansas colleges to receive Carnegie libraries were located in cities which had populations in excess of 1,000 by 1900. Secondly, the applicant had to provide a site for the library. The sites tended to be one or two blocks outside of the community's main business district. Thirdly, the applicant had to provide an annual endowment for the maintenance and improvement of the library which amounted to at least ten percent of the initial grant from the Carnegie Corporation.

This last factor contributed to the ending of the Carnegie Library Building Program in 1917, although grants for books and other improvements continued for several more decades. An inherent problem for second class cities in Kansas was the .4 mill levy restriction for libraries, making it difficult for some communities to meet the annual ten percent maintenance appropriation solely through public dollars. In 1917 the Kansas State legislature increased the library levy to .5 mill for second and third class cities, an amendment which affected most of the communities in the State that had Carnegie Libraries. In 1916, large communities such as Topeka, Wichita, Hutchinson, and Leavenworth had library mill levies of 1.06, 1.2, 1.8, and 3.5 respectively. In Kansas, the average public library grant was \$12,000 and the average college library grant was \$37,000. These monies covered the cost of the building, the necessary furniture and fixtures, and the architects' fees.

Prior to 1910, the Carnegie Corporation did not provide design guidelines for the libraries that it funded and because the library was a relatively new building type, few architects and/or builders had experience with its design. Many of the early libraries were expensive examples of the Beaux Arts style with little focus on floor plan and space

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efficiency. In 1910, Carnegie's personal secretary James Bertram developed model specifications and floorplans for proposed libraries, entitling his work Notes on Library Buildings. The Notes on Library Buildings provided the first widely circulated guidelines for library design in this country.

Bertram wrote:

Small libraries should be pland (sic) so that one librarian can oversee the entire library from a central position.... The bilding (sic) should be devoted exclusively to: (main floor) housing of books and their issue for home use; comfortable accomodations for reading them by adults and children; (basement) lecture room; necessary accommodation for heating plant; also all conveniences for the library patrons and staff. Experience seems to sho (sic) that the best results for a small general library are obtained by adopting the one-story and basement rectangular type of bilding (sic), with a small vestibule entering into one large room sub-divided as required by means of bookcases.... The rear and side windows may be kept about six feet from the floor, to giv (sic) continuous wall space for shelving. A rear wing can be added for stack-room (when future need demands it) at a minimum expense, and without seriously interfering with the library servis (sic) during its construction. The site chosen should be such as to admit lite (sic) on all sides, and be large enuf (sic) to allow extension, if ever such should become necessary.

The thirty-six Carnegie Libraries built in Kansas after 1910 reflect Bertram's precedents, exhibiting high space utilization, and often including full basements, although the raised basement is a design element employed in the earlier libraries as well. Most of these one-story libraries exhibit a three bay, Neo-Classical facade with a projecting central pedimented entry pavilion and are one bay deep. The use of native limestone is evident in some of the libraries but the most common material combination is brick with a limestone foundation. While there is some tendency toward a vernacular interpretation to the design ornamentation of these libraries, the general approach verges on high style.

Correspondence between the Carnegie Corporation and the library boards from the Kansas communities that received Carnegie Libraries indicates that the designs for these libraries were carefully scrutinized by Bertram and in many cases, were resubmitted several times before meeting his requirements. Upon the completion of a library, the library board was instructed to send a full set of blueprints and elevations of the building to the Corporation. However, recent correspondence between the Kansas State Historical Society and the Carnegie Corporation reveals that the Corporation does not have blueprints of the Kansas libraries. The Corporation does have some library photographs but the collection is not inclusive.

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Three architects were particularly active in the design of Kansas Carnegie Libraries: George P. Washburn of Ottawa, Kansas designed nine, A. T. Simmons of Bloomington, Illinois designed six, and William Warren Rose of Kansas City, Kansas designed four. Washburn's libraries are primarily of the standard three-bay, Neo-Classical variety. His firm is credited with the Carnegie libraries in Burlington, Canton, Cherryvale, Columbus, Eureka, Halstead, Osawatomie, Ottawa, and Sterling. Simmons engaged in a more eclectic approach, designing libraries in Abilene, Chanute, Council Grove, Downs, Hays and Yates Center. Rose is credited with the classically inspired libraries in Argentine, Kansas City, Manhattan, and Newton. In Kansas, many Kansas based architects were commissioned to design Carnegie Libraries as well as architects from Illinois, Missouri, Nebraska, and Texas.

Today, many of the state's Carnegie Libraries are facing serious space shortages. The alternatives of adding on or vacating both present preservation problems. Additions to these libraries must be such that the building's original character is not altered. Vacating the library for a larger facility leaves the problem of an empty building, in some communities county historical societies have inherited the empty Carnegie Library. In any event, when these buildings are no longer recognized from a design standpoint as Carnegie Libraries, their architectural significance ceases.

Inventory of Carnegie Libraries in Kansas

<u>SITE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>INVENTORY NUMBER</u>
1. Anthony Public (Carnegie) Library (Harper County) 104 N. Springfield Anthony, Kansas 67003 Owner: City of Anthony Lots 22,23,24; Block 34.	c. 1911	77-0180- ⁰⁰⁰⁴ 0003
2. Burlington Carnegie Free Library (Coffey County) 201 N. Third Burlington, Kansas 66839 Owner: City of Burlington Lots 8,9; Block 35.	c. 1912	31-0690-0015
3. Canton Township Carnegie Library (McPherson County) Box 336 Canton, Kansas 67428 Owner: Canton Township Lots 7,8,9,10,11; Block 2.	c. 1921	113-0790-0001
4. Chanute Public (Carnegie) Library (Neosho County) 102 S. Lincoln Chanute, Kansas 66720 Owner: City of Chanute Lots 2,3; Block 39.	c. 1906	133-0870-0067
5. Cherryvale Public (Carnegie) Library (Montgomery County) 329 E. Main Cherryvale, Kansas 67335 Owner: City of Cherryvale Lots 7,8; Block 39.	c. 1913	⁰⁹³⁰⁻⁰⁰⁰⁵ 125-0939-0006
6. Clay Center Carnegie Library (Clay County) 706 Sixth Street Clay Center, Kansas 67432 Owner: City of Clay Center Lots 12,13; Block 36.	c. 1912	27-0980-0008

- | | | |
|---|---------|-----------------------|
| 7. Coffeyville Carnegie Public Library Building
(Montgomery County)
415 West 8th
Coffeyville, Kansas 67337
Owner: City of Coffeyville
Lots 7,8; Block 47. | c. 1912 | 1050
125-2670-0019 |
| 8. Columbus Public (Carnegie) Library (Cherokee County)
205 N. Kansas
Columbus, Kansas 66725
Owner: City of Columbus
Lots 9,10; Block 9. | c. 1913 | 21-1100-0008 |
| 9. Council Grove (Carnegie) Library (Morris County)
303 W. Main Street
Council Grove, Kansas 66846
Owner: City of Council Grove
Lots 1,2,3; Block 19. | c. 1917 | 127-1180-0074 |
| 10. Downs Carnegie Library (Osborne County)
504 S. Morgan
Downs, Kansas 67437
Owner: City of Downs
Lots 8-12; Block 28. | c. 1906 | 141-1400-0002 |
| 11. El Dorado Carnegie Library Building (Butler County)
101 S. Star
El Dorado, Kansas 67042
Owner: Dean Seeber
N 4' Lot 3, Lot 4; Block 4. | c. 1912 | 15-1540-0004 |
| 12. Anderson (Carnegie) Memorial Library (Lyon County)
The Way College of Emporia
1300 West 12th Avenue
Emporia, Kansas 66801
Owner: Way College of Emporia
Located on the Way College of Emporia campus.
SW, NE1/4, Sec. 9, T19, R11, E. of the 6th p.m.,
running thence E. 76 rods, thence N. 80 rods,
thence W. 76 rods, thence S 80 rods to the | c. 1902 | 111-1660-0002 |

Anderson (Carnegie) Memorial Library (Lyon County) cont.

place of beg., except a tract beg. at the S,SW1/4
Sec. 9, thence N. 670 ft., thence E. 540 ft.,thence
S. 250 ft, thence W. 374 ft., thence S. 420 ft.,
thence W. 166 ft. to the point of beg. in Lyon Co.,KS
and Lots Numbered 61,63,65,67,71, and the N. 30 ft. of
Lot F all in Block numbered 3, in College Hill Addition
to the City of Emporia.

- | | | |
|---|------------------|---------------|
| 13. Fort Scott Public (Carnegie) Library (Bourbon County)
201 South National
Fort Scott, Kansas 66701
Owner: City of Fort Scott
Lots 1,(N1/2) 3; Block 123 | c. 1902 | 11-1830-0016 |
| 14. Girard Carnegie Library (Crawford County)
128 W. Prairie
Girard, Kansas 66743
Owner: City of Girard
Lots 17,18; Block 14. | c. 1906 | 37-2050-0003 |
| 15. Herington Carnegie Public Library (Dickinson County)
102 S. Broadway
Herington, Kansas 67449
Owner: City of Herington
Lots 2,4; Block 40. | c. 1915 | 41-2420-0006 |
| 16. Hutchinson Public (Carnegie) Library Building-
Labor Temple (Reno County)
427 N. Main
Hutchinson, Kansas 67501
Owner: Hutchinson Labor Building Association
Lots 13,14,15; Block 17. | c. 1903-
1904 | 155-2660-0011 |
| 17. Kingman Carnegie Library (Kingman County)
455 N. Main
Kingman, Kansas 67068
Owner: City of Kingman
Lots 101,103,105; Original Town. | c. 1914 | 95-2850-0006 |

- | | | |
|---|---------|---------------|
| 18. Lincoln Carnegie Library (Lincoln County)
203 S. Third
Lincoln, Kansas 67455
Owner: City of Lincoln
Lot 7; Block 32. | c. 1914 | 105-3189-005 |
| 19. Lyndon Carnegie Library (Osage County)
127 E. Sixth, P.O. Box 563
Lyndon, Kansas 66451
Owner: Valleybrook Township
Lots 4-9; Block 22. | c. 1911 | 139-3360-0003 |
| 20. Manhattan Carnegie Library Building (Riley County)
Fifth and Poyntz
Manhattan, Kansas 66502
Owner: Riley County Board of Commissioners
Lot 413; Ward 2. | c. 1904 | 161-3490-0016 |
| 21. Osborne Public (Carnegie) Library (Osborne County)
Third and Main
Osborne, Kansas 67473
Owner: City of Osborne
All of Block 12. | c. 1913 | 141-4230-0006 |
| 22. Oswego Public (Carnegie) Library (Labette County)
704 Fourth Street
Oswego, Kansas 67356
Owner: City of Oswego
Lots 1,2,3,4; Block 32. | c. 1912 | 99-4250-0010 |
| 23. Peabody Township Carnegie Library (Marion County)
214 Walnut
Peabody, Kansas 66866
Owner: Peabody Township
Lots 80,82,84 on Walnut. | c. 1914 | 115-4410-0024 |
| 24. Sterling Free Public (Carnegie) Library (Rice County)
132 N. Broadway
Sterling, Kansas 67579
Owner: City of Sterling
Lots 182,184,186,188 on Broadway. | c. 1917 | 159-5225-0006 |

25. Washburn University Carnegie Library Building
(Shawnee County) c. 1904 177-5400-0017
(Education Building)
Topeka, Kansas 66621
Owner: Washburn University of Topeka
SW1/4, NW 1/4, NE 1/4, SW1/4, S1,T12, R15E
26. Wellington Carnegie Library (Sumner County) c. 1916 191-5730-⁰⁰¹³~~0012~~
121 W. Seventh
Wellington, Kansas 67152
Owner: City of Wellington
Lots 13,14,15,16,17; Block 53.
27. Wichita City (Carnegie) Library Building c. 1915 173-5880-0004
(Sedgwick County)
220 S. Main Street
Wichita, Kansas 67202
Owner: City of Wichita
Lots 24,26,28,30,32,34,36 & 1/2 Vac. Alley Adj.
on E. & Vac. Alley Ly. N. Lot 24 Exc. Beg. SE Cor.
Lot 34 W 33.98 Ft. N. 100.56 Ft. W. 16.75 Ft. N. 9 Ft.
Nwly. 15.36 Ft. W. 6.5 Ft. N. 10 Ft. W. 49 Ft. S. 25
Ft. W. 25 Ft. N. 58.66 Ft. E. to Cen. Li. Vac. Alley
on E. Th. S. 115.56 Ft. W. 8 Ft. to SE Cor. Lot 30 S.
to Beg. Main St. Greiffenstein's Add.
28. Yates Center (Carnegie) Library (Woodson County) c. 1912 207-6010-0007
218 N. Main
Yates Center, Kansas 66783
Owner: City of Yates Center
Lots 4,5,6; Block 27.

9. Major Bibliographical Reference

See attached sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Sterling

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	5	5	6	9	4	6	0	4	2	2	8	3	0	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property stands on Lots 182, 184, 186, 188 on Broadway in Sterling, Kansas. The rectangular tract is bounded to the west by Broadway, to the north by Jefferson, and to the east and south by adjacent property lines.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Martha Gray Hagedorn, Architectural Historian

organization Kansas State Historical Society date April 15, 1987

street & number 120 West 10th Street telephone 913-296-5264

city or town Topeka state Kansas 66612

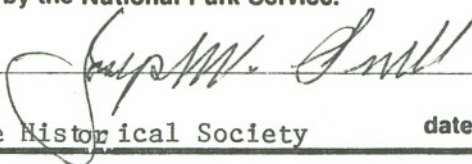
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society date April 15, 1987

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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